ECLIPSE COMICS

ALIEN ENCOUNTERS™

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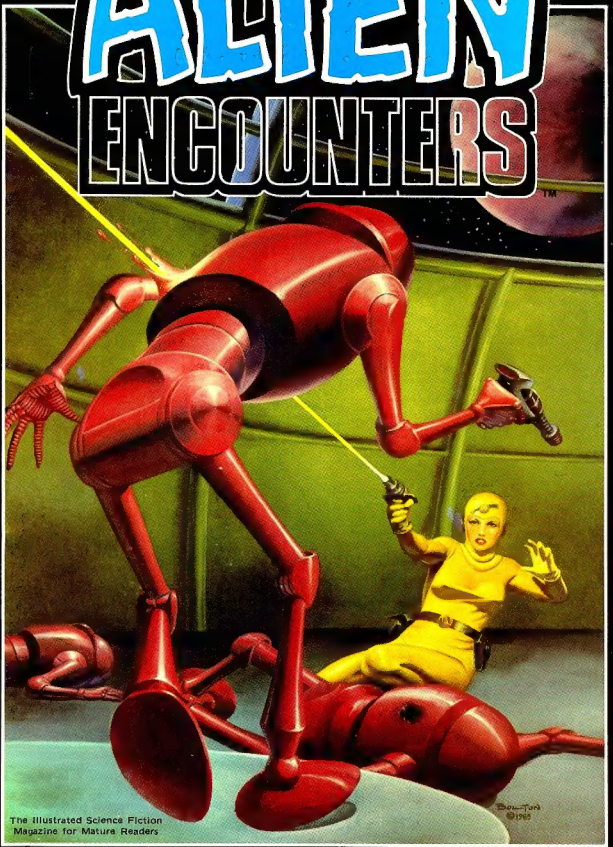


The Illustrated Science Fiction Magazine for Mature Readers

The PENUMBRA

ECLIPSE COMICS • P. O. BOX 199 • GUERNEVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95446

ON THE RACKS

ALIEN ENCOUNTERS no. 4
An all-star issue starting with a great cover painting by John Bolton. Plus: Tim Truman, Gardner Fox and Tim Conrad!

MR. MONSTER no. 4
Wait until you see what happens when Mr. Monster gets "Trapped in Dimension X!".

TEEN TITANS INDEX no. 5
The concluding issue of the Index that tells it all. Includes all covers!

MODESTY BLAISE no. 7
A 72-page squarebound book containing three complete adventures!

SEDUCTION OF THE INNOCENT! no. 3
More sensational Pre-Code classics, including Alex Toth's "The Crushed Gardenia!" Plus, Meskin & Roussos.

PELLEAS & MELISANDE no. 1 and 2
An exquisite 2-part adaptation of Debussey's opera about a forbidden and doomed love, by P. Craig Russell.

THE MASKED MAN no. 7
The secret behind why a nice guy like Dick Carstairs is so obsessed with fighting crime!

TALES OF THE BEANWORLD no. 3
Beanies unite! A mythological explanation of Mr. Spook's fork!

SUN-RUNNERS no. 7
Delphi lays near death and only Doc Gibralter can save her in this, the last issue to be published by Eclipse!

MIRACLEMAN no. 4
In the company of Evelyn Cream, renegade government assassin, Miracleman must defeat the deranged superhuman called Big Ben!

THE NEW DNAgents no. 4
This is it! A major turning point in the life of Tank, a major confrontation in the life of Surge, and a major, major catastrophe looming for the Earth!

LASER ERASER & PRESSBUTTON no. 2
Mysta and Axel find things fast and furious in "Sins of the Flesh." Plus part 2 of "Twilight World."

WHAT THEY DO, TAKE THREE:

In our ceaseless efforts to keep you up to date on what Eclipsoid beings do besides read comic books, i am happy to inform you that i met a 27 year old man at the Pacific Grove Comicon who assembles electronics items for fun and profit. The items are "controls" for things like printing presses and even—this is great!—the machines that dip M&Ms candies into their coatings!!!

I stupidly forgot this guy's name, for which i hope i'll be forgiven. He has been collecting comics since 1965 and was primarily a DC fan until he branched out to the other companies. He owns 80 out of the 200 or so colour comics Eclipse has published so far. I know that because he carries an index to his collection with him to cons so he'll know what he needs to get, and he looked it all up for me.

Now, the next time you eat an M&M, think of how everything is all connected...your mouth, the colourful, crunchy candy coating, the dipping machine that put the candy coating onto the chocolate center, the electronic control board that regulated the dipping machine, the comic book collector who assembled the control board...and Eclipse Comics, waiting for him when he gets home from work. Awesome.

JOBS I HAVE NEVER HAD BUT WANTED TO:

I would like to get everybody to send me all of their unmatched socks so i could find mates for them. So far nobody has offered to pay me for this so i have never done it.

I would like to open a store that sells coffee and antiques and used books. Also simple, ancient foods such as quesadillas and pasta al pesto. This store would be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There would be motel rooms and free showers attached, and a heated swimming pool. If you are a millionaire, please consider financing this one, okay?

I want to make little potholders on those little metal frame weaving looms all day for one year while bluebirds sing outside my sun-drenched windows. Most of the potholders will be yellow, green and orange.

I think EVERYBODY should receive government tax credits every time they have sex. Having sex is not a job, but i volunteer to administer the program for the first year until it gets off the ground.

I want to get paid for remembering everything. I spend hours and hours every day just reading stuff and filing it in my brain, where it will be available to anyone who asks. Did you know that the woodworking and sewing classes taught in public schools were initiated by a woman named Alice B. Stockham, who also was a friend of Leo Tolstoy, and was the fifth woman doctor in America, and believed that people should have sex every day? This is all true! PAY ME FOR TELLING YOU THIS!

I want to be paid for being a human guinea pig. Among the things i would volunteer my body to test are these: new flavours of ice cream, new brands of Mexican salsa, and new fashions in angora sweaters.

I want to train chickens to play tic tac toe.

If i can't earn a living doing any of these things, i will settle for editing comic books. In order for me to do that, you'll have to buy some every day. A dozen will do. And i promise i will buy M&Ms in return.

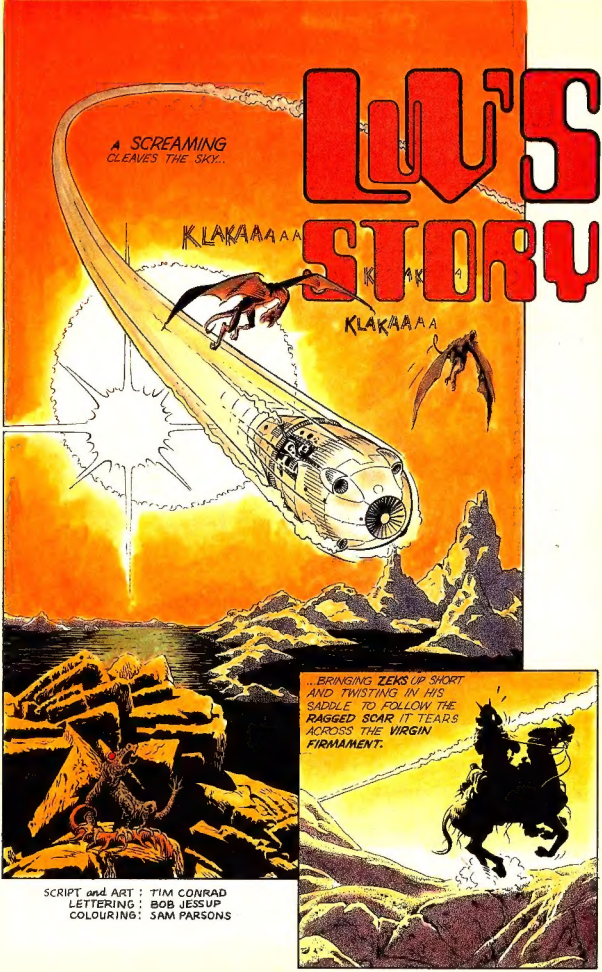
catherine yronwode

IN YOUR HANDS

It's a great pleasure to welcome Tim Conrad to our pages. Tim's work has thrilled comics readers for many years, and "LuVs Story" is his first work at Eclipse. All-time great Gardner Fox also makes his *AE* debut, as does Scout's Timothy Truman. Plus, Charles Wagner, Bill Wray and Larry Elmore return, making this one of the most stellar line-ups to date!

A genuine Art Carbunkle Scan

ALIEN ENCOUNTERS no. 4, December 1985. Published by Eclipse Comics, P.O. Box 199, Guerneville, CA 95446. Catherine Yronwode, Editor. Sean Deming, Assistant Editor. Dean Mullaney, Publisher. Cover art ©1985 John Bolton. "LuV's Story" ©1985 Tim Conrad. "Wish Upon a Jewel" story ©1985 Gardner Fox; art ©1985 Larry Elmore. "Now In...Behave Yourself" story ©1985 Charles Wagner; art ©1985 Bill Wray. "Invasion" ©1985 Timothy Truman. All other material ©1985 Eclipse Enterprises, Inc. *Alien Encounters* is a trademark of Eclipse Enterprises, Inc. All rights reserved. The stories, characters and events in this magazine are fictional. Film by SM Graphics. Printed in Canada.


LUV'S
STORY
A SCREAMING CLEAVES THE SKY..
KLAKAAAAA
KLAKAAAAA
...BRINGING ZEKS UP SHORT AND TWISTING IN HIS SADDLE TO FOLLOW THE RAGGED SCAR IT TEARS ACROSS THE VIRGIN FIRMAMENT.

SCRIPT and ART : TIM CONRAD
LETTERING : BOB JESSUP
COLOURING: SAM PARSONS

THE SOUND AND THE SIGHT ARE TOTALLY UNFAMILIAR--- AS ALIEN TO HIS EXPERIENCE AS THE STEAMING AND BATTERED OBJECT HE FINDS GOUGED INTO THE BEACH OF THE GREAT OIL LAKE...
...OR THE PALE AND UNPROTECTED FIGURE WHICH EMERGES, ONLY TO COLLAPSE ONTO THE GRITTY STRAND.
UNNHH!
ZEK'S' CONCERN FOR THE FIGURE IS MINIMAL---AN OBSTACLE TO BE REMOVED ---AS HE CONTEMPLATES THE POSSIBILITY OF DISCOVERING SOME NEW AND ADVANTAGEOUS WEAPON IN THIS INEXPLICABLE VESSEL!
KRAM
BUT THE FRAIL HUMAN FORM IS THE ONLY SALVAGE ZEKS IS TO HAVE THIS DAY...
...THOUGH OF WHAT POSSIBLE USE THAT WILL BE TO HIM AND HIS FELLOW DYMON HE CANNOT NOW EVEN IMAGINE, HE WILL HAVE TO BE SHOWN...

THE BEING NOW SITTING UP BEFORE HIM EXHIBITS NO RECOGNIZABLE SIGNS OF REAR OR APPREHENSION ...AS WOULD ONE OF HIS OWN IF CAUGHT SO UNPROTECTED AND UNARMED. IT ONLY TRILLS AND WHINES AND WHISTLES LIKE SOME DEMENTED KLAXA BIRD...
GRACIOUS! I GUESS THAT'S THAT! THEY WARNED US TO STAY AWAY FROM THE LIFE PODS... AND SINCE THE SHIP IS ONLY LONG-RANGE RECON THEY CERTAINLY CAN'T COME DOWN AND GET ME!
COMMANDER CRADER MUST BE FURIOUS! AND JAFE WILL GET BUSTED SO LOW HE'LL BE TYING HIS SHOES WITH HIS TEETH FOR TAKING ME INTO THE POD IN THE FIRST PLACE-- BUT AT LEAST HE WENT BACK ON DUTY BEFORE I ELBOWED THAT SLOW-WITTED EJECTION CONSOLE!
WELL... THEY'RE THERE AND I'M HERE--AND YOU HAVE RESCUED ME FROM ABSOLUTE DESTRUCTION!
MY NAME IS LUV... WHAT'S YOURS?
BUT THIS CREATURE FROM THE SKY-- THOUGH SCRAWNY, PALE AND ALL BUT FEATURELESS -- IS ALMOST DYMON IN FORM... AND DEFINITELY FEMALE!
AND ZEKS HAS NOT HAD A WOMAN IN MANY, MANY DAYS.
LIKE ALL THE DYMON, HE IS A SOLITARY FORAGER IN THIS BLISTERED LANDSCAPE, WHERE SURVIVAL MEANS TAKING WHAT YOU WANT... FROM WHOEVER HAS IT!
HE IS CONDITIONED FOR THE VIOLENT SATISFACTION OF HIS DESIRE. IT IS THE ONLY WAY HE KNOWS. HE DOES NOT KNOW THE PASSIVE ACCEPTANCE OF LUV'S RESPONSE...
...AND DISCONCERTED BY THIS UNPRECEDENTED REACTION, ZEKS TURNS AWAY-- HIS LUST SUBVERTED.
BUT WHEN HE RESUMES HIS INTERRUPTED WANDERINGS HE HAS -- FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS ADULT LIFE -- A COMPANION!
I GUESS I SHOULD BE EXCITED, YOU KNOW, GETTING TO SEE A WHOLE NEW PLANET AND EVERYTHING, AND YOU'VE BEEN NICE. I HOPE YOUR PEOPLE LIKE ME TOO WHEN WE.....

AND AS THE DAY WANES, SOMETHING IN THE NAIVE TONE OF HER VOICE --HER INNOCENT DEPENDENCE AND TRUST-- HER TOUCH-- BEGINS TO ILLUMINATE SOME HITHERTO DARK AND DISTANT CORNER IN HIS BREAST.
UNTIL BLACK REALITY TAKES ADVANTAGE OF HIS REVERY--
FOR ON THIS BARREN PLANET, THE COMPETITION FOR LIFE IS VICIOUS AND UNRELENTING!
SWIFT AND VIOLENT DESTRUCTION IS THE PRICE OF A MOMENT'S DISTRACTION!
BECAUSE A MOMENT IS ALL DEATH NEEDS!

ZEKS IS STUNNED! NOT BY THE STRUGGLE, NOR THE BRUSH WITH DEATH--TO THOSE HE IS ACCUSTOMED--BUT BY THIS FEMALE'S UNHEARD-OF ACT OF SELF-SACRIFICE...
...TO WHICH HE NOW OWES HIS LIFE! IT IS A SITUATION INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO A DYMON. IT AWAKES HIM UNCOMFORTABLE--SOMEHOW OFF BALANCE!
AND HE FINDS HIMSELF BEHAVING AS NO DYMON EVER HAS--STRIVING TO RESTORE HIS EQUILIBRIUM BY OFFERING TO SHARE THE KILL...
WHY, THANK YOU! BUT I'M AFRAID I CAN'T USE THAT SORT OF FOOD. I'LL HAVE TO FIND MY OWN--THOUGH I DO APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN!
BUT THE OFFERING IS REFUSED!
IN A WORLD WHERE SUCH A MORSEL WOULD BE CAUSE FOR MURDER, THIS FEMALE NOT ONLY REJECTS IT, BUT DOES SO WITH A COMPELLING TENDERNESS IN THE TONES OF HER CHIRPING AND A GENTLE CARESS--WHICH OPEN SOME YAWNING ABYSS OF LONGING IN ZEKS'S HEART!
YET WHEN HE LIES DOWN TO SLEEP--AND SHE CURLS UP AGAINST HIM--HE ALSO FEELS FOR THE FIRST TIME SOME GLIMMERING SENSE OF WHAT WOULD FILL THIS NEWLY REVEALED EMPTINESS... AND HE DRIFTS OFF KNOWING ONLY THAT HE DOES NOT WANT TO LOSE THIS STRANGE COMPANION COME TO HIM FROM THE HEAVENS...
WHEN HE AWAKENS WITH THE DAWN, HOWEVER, SHE IS GONE!
A WILD PANIC SEIZES HIM! A BITTER DREAD WASHES OVER HIS SOUL! AS IF IN THIS ONE MOMENT ALL THE ISOLATION AND LONELINESS OF HIS LIFETIME IS COMPRESSED, CONDENSED--AND HE IS COMPELLED TO ENDURE IT!

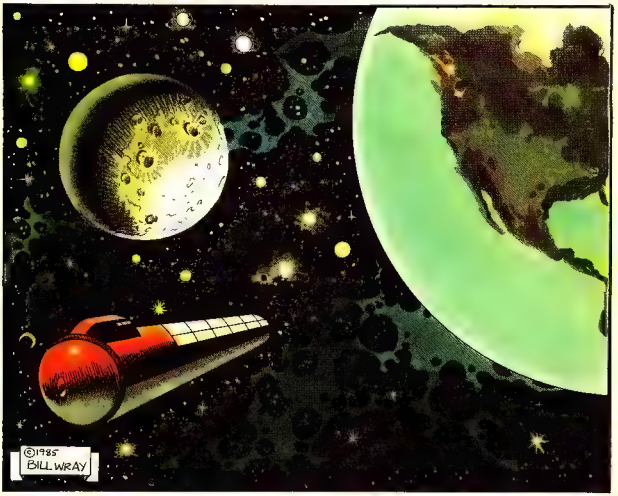
HIS SEARCH IS FRANTIC BUT BRIEF! HE FINDS HER KNEELING BY A POOL OF CRUDE OIL-- COMMON IN THIS VICINITY--FROM WHICH SHE IS... DRINKING!
OH, MY FRIEND! I HAVE FOUND SOMETHING TO SUSTAIN ME ON YOUR PLANET! IT'S A BIT RAW... BUT I CAN FUNCTION ON IT! AND LATER I CAN REFINE IT A LITTLE AND--
HIS RELIEF, HOWEVER, IS DROWNED IN THE RESIDUE OF HIS INITIAL ANGUISH, WHICH RISES NOW IN A TORRENT OF RAGE-- POURING FORTH AS A WAVE OF REJECTION!
BUT IS IT THIS WOMAN HIS ANGER SEEKS TO DENY...?
...OR SOMETHING WITHIN HIMSELF!
IN A FURY OF CONFUSION AND SHAME HE DONS HIS ARMOR, BREAKS CAMP...
...AND SADDLES HIS STEED...
...DETERMINED TO ABANDON THE SOURCE OF THIS OVERWHELMING FLOOD OF CONFLICTING EMOTIONS!
HE GETS NO MORE THAN FIFTY YARDS BEFORE HE STOPS...
...AND WAITS WHILE SHE RUNS TO CATCH UP!
I--I THOUGHT YOU WERE LEAVING ME! I SEEM TO HAVE OFFENDED YOU IN SOME WAY!
I'M REALLY SORRY--YOU'VE BEEN SO NICE. I DON'T WANT TO UPSET YOU. I--

THE DAY IS UNEVENTFUL, AND BY EVENING ZEKS IS ONCE AGAIN ENTHRALLED BY HER EASY MANNER AND CALM ACCEPTANCE..
IT'S REALLY QUITE NICE, ISN'T IT, SITTING BY A REAL FIRE IN THE OPEN AIR...
I'VE NEVER BEEN OFF THE SHIP BEFORE -- AWAY FROM MACHINERY AND FUNCTIONS AND DUTY!
THE EVER-PRESENT TENSION OF WRINGING A SUBSISTENCE OUT OF THIS WASTED WORLD IS EASED -- BALANCED -- BY HER PRESENCE, THOUGH HE IS AT ONCE BAFFLED AND INTRIGUED -- BY THE FEMALE HERSELF AND BY THE NOVEL SENSATIONS SHE ENGENDERS!
HE OFFERS HER THE OIL HE USES TO CONDITION HIS HARNESS...
...AND IS ONCE AGAIN TAKEN ABACK BY HER REACTION!
HOW THOUGHTFUL YOU ARE! I WISH YOU UNDERSTOOD ME -- BUT THERE ARE SOME WAYS TO SAY THANK YOU THAT ARE SURELY UNIVERSAL...
AND SHE REVEALS TO ZEKS THE ABSOLUTE WONDER AND SOUL-STIRRING ECSTASY OF LOVE FREELY GIVEN..
...AND THE DEEP AND DREAMLESS SLEEP OF EMOTIONAL AS WELL AS PHYSICAL SATISFAC-TION!
ONLY TO HAVE IT SHATTERED...
...BY THE PRE-DAWN AMBUSH OF A DYMON BITCH AND HER CUBS!
HAVING CAUGHT ZEKS OFF-GUARD AND -- BY DYMON STANDARDS -- UNIMAGINABLY UNPREPARED, SHE WILL KILL HIM AND CONFISCATE HIS EQUIPMENT! HIS COM-PANION WILL BE GIVEN TO HER YOUNG AS A PLAYTHING!

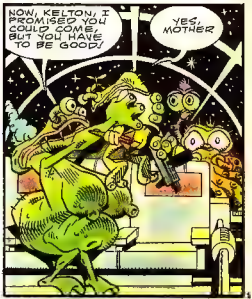
BUT ZEK'S HAS SURVIVED IN THIS WORLD LONG ENOUGH TO NEVER BE TOTALLY DEFENSELESS...
...AND THE VENOM-SOAKED DART HIDDEN IN THE HEM OF HIS SLEEPING MAT IS AS EFFECTIVE A DEFENSE AS ANY!
WITH THE BITCH INSTANTLY PARALYZED, HE TURNS HIS ATTENTION TO THE CUBS...
...WHO--THOUGH YOUNG--ARE OLD ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE THE PROSPECT OF DEFEAT...AND THE VALUE OF RETREAT!
THOUGH A PARTING GESTURE OF DEFIANCE...
FZT*
POP
ZT
...SMASHES ANY SENSE OF TRIUMPH IN THIS SAVAGE ENCOUNTER!
ZEK'S BUILDS A CAIRN AND RESTS HER GENTLY UPON IT, BEQUEATHING HER REMAINS TO THE ONLY OMNIPOTENT FORCES HE KNOWS--THE WIND AND SAND.
HE IS FILLED ONCE AGAIN WITH THAT PAINFUL ACHE OF LONGING--NOW SET BY IRREVOCABLE DEATH!
BUT AS THE DAY BREAKS AND HE RIDES ON, HE KNOWS THAT THIS AWFUL EMPTINESS CAN PERHAPS BE FILLED AGAIN...
...IF HE CAN BRING HIS NEWFOUND SENSE OF TRUST AND SHARING TO OTHERS OF HIS OWN KIND.
LOVE UNLIMITED
VOLUPTA
PRODIGIOUS KALEIDOSCOPIC EMPIRE
TO SINGLE AFFECTION

NOW JR. BEHAVE YOURSELF

ON EARTH, THE TIME IS THE PRESENT. IN SPACE, IT'S TIME FOR ONE OF THE REGULAR TOUR-SHIPS TO VISIT EARTH FROM THE CAPELLAN STAR SYSTEM.



NOW, IF EVERYONE WILL PLEASE RETURN TO THEIR SEATS -- THAT MEANS YOU, TOO, LITTLE BOY -- WE'LL ENTER THE PLANET'S ATMOSPHERE.
RRR-POW!



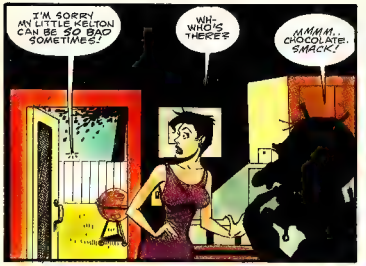
STORY: CHUCK WAGNER ART: BILL WRAY LETTERING: JOHN WORKMAN COLORING: BILL WRAY

NOW, REMEMBER, AS WE ENTER THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE, WE ARE SWITCHING ON THE INVISO-SHIELDING. THE SHIP AND EVERYONE WILL BE INVISO-SHIELDED AT ALL TIMES...
...BUT THOSE OF YOU WHO WISH TO LEAVE THE SHIP SHOULD REMAIN NEARBY...
...AND PLEASE DON'T BOND WITH THE ANIMALS OR TEASE THEM. THEY'RE INTELLIGENT, BUT PRIMITIVE, AND CAN BE DANGEROUS.
MOM, CAN WE PACK OLT AND SEE? I WANNA SEE THE ANIMALS UP CLOSE.
LEAVE THE SHIPS TURN YOU LOOSE? CERTAINLY NOT!
MALE
FEMALE
AWW, GEE, MOM.
NOW, KELTON, DON'T MAKE A FUSS. WE CAN SEE FINE FROM HERE. JUST LOOK..

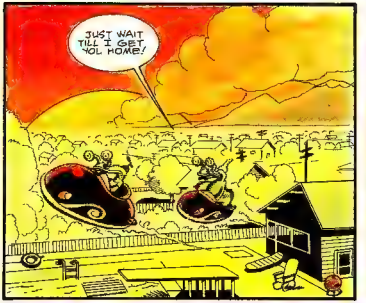
...AREN'T THEY SAVAGE, KELTON? AREN'T YOU GLAD WE DON'T LIVE LIKE THAT? ...KELTON? ...KELTON?
KELTON! OH, NO. NOW WHERE'S HE OFF TO?
WHEEE! NOW FOR SOME REAL FUN!
HAVE YOU SEEN MY LITTLE KELTON?
NO. YOU BETTER FIND HIM. WE'LL BE LEAVING THIS VIEWING AREA SOON.
MEANWHILE...
I WONDER WHAT SHE'S CARRYING...

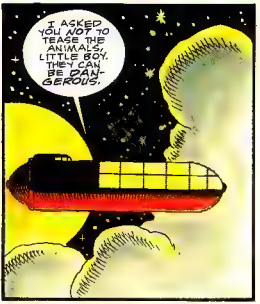
I THINK I'LL MENTALLY BOND WITH HER AND FIND OUT
OH!
MY! MUSTVE BEEN A DRAFT!
THIS IS GREAT! I CAN SEE EVERYTHING! ALL HER THOUGHTS, TOO!
BOY, WILL HER HUSBAND REALLY BE SURPRISED WITH THIS!
AHA! THERE HE IS!
HE'S GOING TO LEARN TO MIND ME!
ZOOM!
SLAM
DRAT! MISSED HIM!

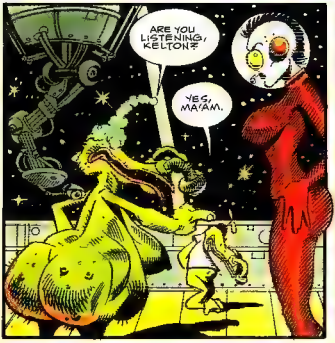
HI, HONEY! WHAT'S THAT?
YOUR BIRTHDAY CAKE. COME IN THE KITCHEN AND SEE
OH BOY!
NOW'S MY CHANCE!
SURPRISE!
HEE HEE HEE!
WOW, NICE!
SO!
OH, NO!
MMMNFF!
SPLAT!
KELTON! GET OUT OF THAT EARTH CREATURE THIS MINUTE!
OOW!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO ME--- BUT IT FEELS LIKE IT'S GONE NOW...
SPUT! SPUT!


I'M SORRY MY LITTLE KELTON CAN BE SO BAD SOMETIMES!
WH-WHO'S THERE?
MMMM.. CHOCOLATE. SMACK!

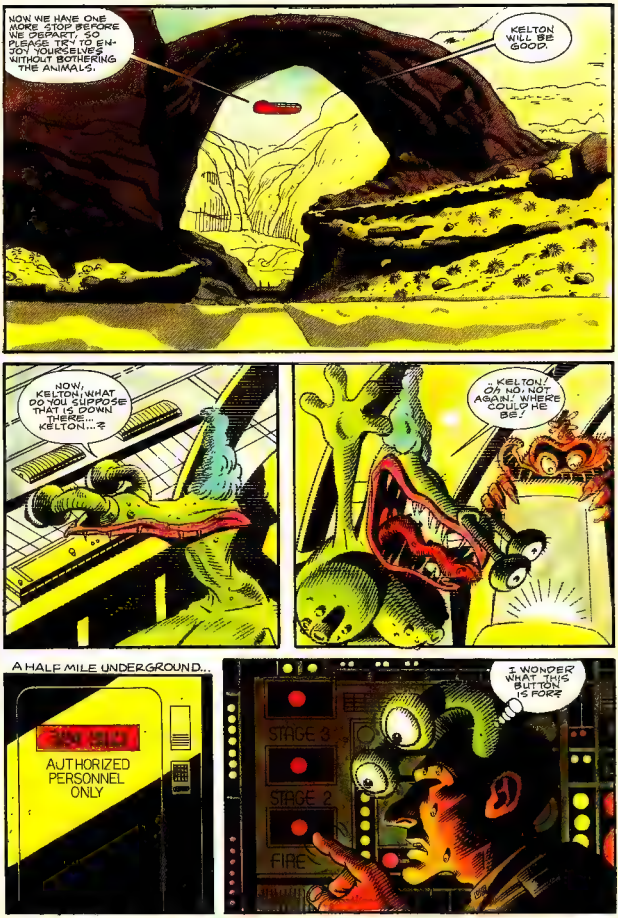
WE'RE ALIENS FROM THE CAPELLAN SAFARI TOUR... TELL THEM YOU'RE SORRY, KELTON...
I'M SORRY.
WHAT A WEIRD BIRTHDAY PRESENT.


JUST WAIT TILL I GET YOU HOME!


I ASKED YOU NOT TO TEASE THE ANIMALS, LITTLE BOY. THEY CAN BE DANGEROUS.


ARE YOU LISTENING, KELTON?
YES, MA'AM.

WHAT DO YOU SAY, KELTON?
I'M SORRY.


NOW WE HAVE ONE MORE STOP BEFORE WE DEPART, SO PLEASE TRY TO ENJOY YOURSELVES WITHOUT BOTHERING THE ANIMALS.
KELTON WILL BE GOOD.
NOW, KELTON, WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT IS DOWN THERE... KELTON...?
KELTON! OH NO, NOT AGAIN! WHERE COULD HE BE!
A HALF MILE UNDERGROUND...
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY
STAGE 3
STAGE 2
FIRE
I WONDER WHAT THIS BUTTON IS FOR?

KELTON! YOU BAD BOY!
SMELL SMELL SMELL
WHY MUST YOU ALWAYS SPOIL MOMMY'S VACATION?
WHAAA!
THE END

Rino Munzù

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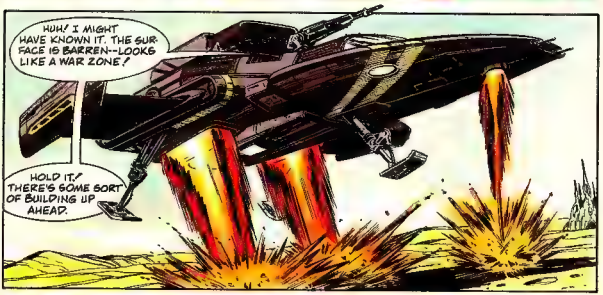
ON A ROUTINE SPACE EXPLORATION MISSION, AT THE OUTERMOST RIM OF HIS PATROL, SPACE OFFICER CON JACKSON SIGHTS AN UNCHARTED PLANET. HE IS ALMOST OUT OF FUEL, YET HE STILL HEADS TOWARD HIS DESTINY, WHICH IS TO...

WISH UPON A JEWEL

STORY • GARDNER F. FOX
ART • LARRY ELMORE
LETTERING • WAYNE TRUMAN
COLORS • TINA SMITH

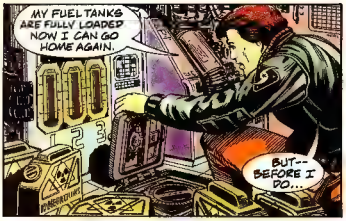
THAT STOPOVER ON PALLUDUS NEARLY DID ME IN. I'M SHORT ON FUEL--AND OUT OF FOOD! IF I GO DOWN FOR A LOOK-SEE AT THAT PLANET, I WON'T BE ABLE TO GET BACK TO THE BASE! BUT A NEW PLANET--THE OLD MAN WOULD BE SO HAPPY, HE'D PROBABLY GIVE ME A PROMOTION!
SO WHAT DO I DO? I DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE--I'M GOING DOWN! "JACKSON'S WORLD" HERE I COME!

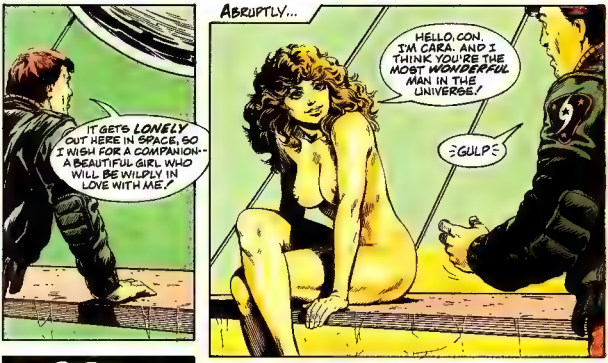


MIGHT AS WELL LEARN ALL I CAN ABOUT THIS PLACE.
'CAUSE IF I CAN'T RAISE ANY FUEL AROUND THESE PARTS, I'M GOING TO BE STUCK HERE THE REST OF MY LIFE!

WHATEVER THIS THING IS--IT WAS MANMADE!
WITH MY LOUSY LUCK IT'LL BE EMPTY! NO FOOD! NOTHING!
EERIE LONELINESS--AND A THICK LAYER OF DUST--IS UPON EVERYTHING AS HE STRIDES FORWARD...
I KNEW IT! NOTHING TO HELP ME.
JUST MY ROTTEN LUCK--AGAIN!
WHAT'S THAT THING? PROBABLY A GOD OF SOME KIND THAT THE PEOPLE HERE WORSHIPPED BEFORE THEY KILLED EACH OTHER OFF.
LOT OF GOOD THAT DOES ME!
BOY! AM I EVER HUNGRY! I HAVENT EATEN IN OVER FORTY HOURS.
I SURE WISH I HAD A HOT DOG!
NO SOONER ARE THE WORDS OUT OF HIS MOUTH THAN....
HUH ???
AM I SEEING THINGS? CAN IT BE...?
IT IS! A REAL LIVE HOT DOG!
AND IS IT EVER GOOD.
2

THIS IS LIKE MAGIC!
I MADE A WISH AND IT CAME TRUE!
DRAGGING OVER A CHAIR, CON BEATS HIMSELF AND...
OKAY--LET'S GO ABOUT THIS SCIENTIFICALLY!
I WISH I HAD A A BIG STEAK SMOTHERED IN ONIONS AND FRENCH FRIES!
WITH A BIG WEDGE OF HOMEMADE APPLE PIE!
AFTER HIS MEAL, CON SPENDS SOME TIME IN REFLECTION....
I DID IT! I MADE A STEAK AND PIE APPEAR!
HEY WOW! WHAT SORT OF PARADISE HAVE I FALLEN INTO?
APPARENTLY THAT GLOBE UP THERE GRANTS WISHES... PROBABLY BY CREATING MATTER--SOMEHOW! THEN IT PLACES IT ON THE TABLE.
WOULD IT GIVE ME SOME FUEL IF I WISHED FOR IT?
AND WHEN HE MAKES HIS WISH....
IT WORKED! I'M SAVED!
THERE THEY ARE!
FUEL
NOW I CAN GET BACK TO THE BASE-- BUT WAIT!
DO I WANT TO GO-- JUST YET?


MY FUEL TANKS ARE FULLY LOADED NOW I CAN GO HOME AGAIN.
BUT-- BEFORE I GO...
I'M GOING TO MILK THIS THING FOR ALL IT'S WORTH.
I HAVE A FEW IDEAS ON HOW TO DO THAT, ALL RIGHT!


IT GETS LONELY OUT HERE IN SPACE, SO I WISH FOR A COMPANION-- A BEAUTIFUL GIRL WHO WILL BE WILDLY IN LOVE WITH ME!
ABRUPTLY...
HELLO, CON. I'M CARA. AND I THINK YOU'RE THE MOST WONDERFUL MAN IN THE UNIVERSE!
:GULP:

IS THIS REALLY HAPPENING?
I LOVE YOU! I LOVE YOU!
YEAH, SURE I LOVE YOU TOO.
BUT LISTEN, BABE--WHAT IS THIS PLACE? WHAT ABOUT THE GLOBE? IS ALL THIS REAL?

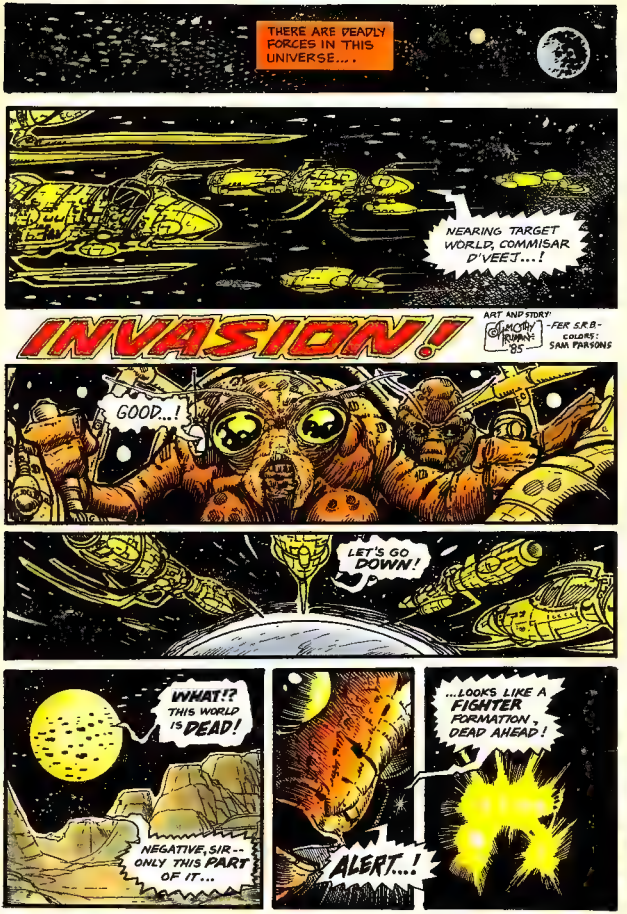
OF COURSE IT'S REAL! THIS IS THE PLANET ALANARR. AGES AGO A MARVELOUS GENIUS INVENTED THE OMNI ORB THAT COULD CREATE ANYTHING AT ALL. IT WAS DESIGNED TO BRING PEACE TO THIS WARLIKE PLANET.
SINCE THE OMNI ORB WILL GIVE YOU ANYTHING YOU WISH FOR--THERE IS NO NEED TO MAKE WAR UPON ONE ANOTHER.
FOR TWO CENTURIES PEACE REIGNED ON ALANARR. THEN AROSE A WARLORD NAMED KULKOR VON...
THE OMNI ORB SHALL SERVE ONLY ME! WITH IT, I SHALL RULE ALL ALANARR!
WE SHALL TAKE IT--AND MAKE IT OURS!
FOR ANOTHER HUNDRED YEARS THE BATTLE WAGED, UNTIL ALL LIFE WAS DESTROYED ON THE PLANET. ONLY THE OMNI ORB AND ITS TEMPLE WERE SPARED...BECAUSE SOME WISHED IT SO
BKROOMMM! KARROOMM
BUT WHEN THE WAR WAS OVER, THERE WAS NO ONE LEFT TO MAKE A WISH--UNTIL YOU CAME ALONG.
NOW MY LOVE, WE SHALL LIVE HERE HAPPILY FOREVER!

NOT ME! I'M NOT STAYING ON A DESERTED PLANET FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE! NOT WHEN I CAN BE THE RICHEST MAN IN THE UNIVERSE!
BUT CON-- I LOVE YOU!
OHHH!
LOVE ME! I ADORE YOU, I WORSHIP YOU!
WILL YOU PIPE DOWN! YOU'RE MAKING ME MAD!
BUT I LOVE YOU, LOVE YOU!
SURE, SURE-- BUT NOT RIGHT NOW!
SLAAPP
WILL YOU CUT IT OUT! I GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO THAN KISS YOU!
I WISH YOU TO FILL THE TABLE WITH GOLDEN EAGLES!
FIFTY BILLION MEGA-CREDS WORTH!
NOW TO LOAD MY SHIP WITH ALL THAT WEALTH!
AFTER THAT I HAVE ONE MORE LAST WISH TO MAKE!
LADEN DOWN WITH GOLDEN COINS, CON AND CARA CARRY THE TREASURE TO THE SPACE SHIP..
WE'LL LIVE LIKE A KING AND A QUEEN, CARA--AND WILL YOU PLEASE STOP SNIVELING!!!
YYES, M-MY LOVE
SOB!
6

BACK INSIDE THE TEMPLE, CON JACKSON MAKES HIS FINAL WISH...
I HATE TO DO IT, BUT IF SOMEONE ELSE FINDS THIS PLACE, MONEY WON'T BE WORTH A THING ANYMORE--EVERYONE WILL HAVE IT. SO---
I WISH FOR AN ATOM BOMB--ONE OF THE TEN MEGATRON VARIETY!
WITH THIS, I'M GOING TO BLOW THAT GLOBE SKYHIGH--SO NOBODY ELSE CAN EVER USE IT!
I'LL SET THE DEVICE TO ACTIVATE IT AFTER I LIFT OFF PLANET!
MY PRESENT TO YOU, OMNI ORB!
--AND SO LONG!
TIC TIC TIC TIC
THE SPACESHIP RISES UPWARD...
I GOT A SHIP FULL OF GOLD AND FUEL! A BEAUTIFUL HONEY TO PAMPER ME! WHO SAID MY LUCK WAS BAD? CON JACKSON'S GONNA LIVE IT UP FROM NOW ON, TO THE HILT!
ON THE PLANET ALANARR, THE TEN MEGATRON BOMB TICKS OFF ITS FINAL SECONDS...
TIC TIC TIC TIC
WHILE ON THE SPACESHIP...
CARA! WH-WH--WHY, YOU'RE FADING OUT!!!

THE GOLD HAS GONE, TOO!
AND-- AND MY MOTOR HAS STOPPED!
MY FUEL'S DISAPPEARED!
BY LEAVING ALANARR I MUST HAVE MOVED BEYOND RANGE OF THE OMNI ORB'S POWER!
I'M FALLING-- FALLING RIGHT BACK ONTO THE TEMPLE OF THE GLOBE!
I'M GOING TO CRASH!

BUT BEFORE THE SPACESHIP CAN TOUCH DOWN ON ALANARR, THE PLANET WHERE DREAMS COME TRUE...
BAAROOOMMMM
END


THERE ARE DEADLY FORCES IN THIS UNIVERSE....
NEARING TARGET WORLD, COMMISAR D'VEET...!
INVASION!
ART AND STORY TIMOTHY TRUMAN '85
-FER S.R.B.-
COLORS: SAM PARSONS
GOOD...!
LET'S GO DOWN!
WHAT!? THIS WORLD IS DEAD!
NEGATIVE, SIR-- ONLY THIS PART OF IT...
ALERT...!
...LOOKS LIKE A FIGHTER FORMATION, DEAD AHEAD!

HEAD STRAIGHT IN!
BREAK THEIR FORMATION!
WHEN THEY PEEL OFF-- NAIL'EM!
GREAT DRUILLET! THEY AREN'T BREAKING!
...THEY AREN'T...
AIEEEEEEEE
WAM!
...LOTSA BUGS OUT TONIGHT, AIN'T THEY, TOM BOB?
SURE ARE, J.T.! SURE ARE...!
TIMOTHY TRUMAN
The ENDSVILLE Man

ECLIPSE COMICS • P.O.BOX 199 • GUERNEVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95446

Dear cat,

Now *this* is what I had in mind. *These* are the kind of stories I was looking for in an issue of *Alien Encounters*. Issue #3 featured not only great stories, but also great art.

I liked the cover. I would like even more to know who *did* it. The artist was so subtle and effective, I peg the artist as being either a current or future favorite. There are a lot of side bets going on about who did the cover. I stand to lose all the money I've won so far on the World Series on the basis of this question.

"The Heroine" was a good story. Sure, it leaned toward the *Heavy Metal* school of story-telling, but it kept me guessing. The end ng was like something I once read in an E.C. comic. Nice work.

"M.O.T.H.E.R." was an amusing story. Dixon and Elmore managed to incorporate almost every over-bearing mother joke known to man in a mildly funny story. Unfortunately, I knew how it would end by the third page. This "formula" tale was saved by the art and the d alogue.

"Claustrophobia" had the gnt of a Will Eisner story. Far more brutal, far more wicked than Eisner, the story maintained the nightmare all the way through.

"Relativity" was the story that reminded me most of E.C.'s Giant Praying Mantises? I remember clearly the E.C. story about the mant-ses who ran in terror from the bug col ector who pinned them to press-board. (Wish I could remember the name of that story.) Anyway . . . *this* story was just the opposite of that. The Mantis lives, and the baby is d sected. Still, this shows an improvement over last issue. Better art and better scripts.

Now you need more *original* scripts.

Sincerely,
T. E. Pouncey
2356 Mascot
Wichita, KS 67208

* * * *

Cat,

Alien Encounters #3 had a variety of art styles ranging from excellent to tolerable. "The Heroine" had the best art, but I just wish I knew who *did* it. "M.O.T.H.E.R. Knows Best" ranked second in the art department. Elmore's art looks very familiar, but I just can't place where I've seen it before. Jim Baikie takes third place for his work on "Claustrophobia." While I didn't like his actual drawing very much, I did enjoy his layouts and detailing tremendously. Micheluzzi's work rubbed me the wrong way. It was not bad, but it isn't the type of art I like spending $1.75 for, either.

All the stories this issue were very good. Pedro Henry scripted the best story of the issue. How about having another story about Claustrophobia? Buzz Dixon wrote a much better story than he did in *A.E.* #1, where he made a mistake with "Gorgonzo" by trying to tell an entire story in eight pages. In an anthology book like *Alien Encounters* writers should try to tell only a part of a greater story, sort of a vignette. In *A.E.* #3, Buzz realized this and I enjoyed "M.O.T.H.E.R. Knows Best" a lot. "Relativity" and "The Heroine" were pretty much even, but if forced to choose between the two I would have to pick "Relativity" because of its end ng.

All in all, I feel "Claustrophobia" was the best story this time and "Relativity" the least best (I say "least best" because I don't feel it was bad). In the future I would like to see stories from Bruce Jones, Mark Evanier, Alan Moore, Doug Moench, and Mike Barr. Also I would l ke to see artwork by Brian Bolland, Dan Spiegle, George Perez, John Byrne, Mike Golden, Marshall Rogers and Dave Stevens. I have many more names but I think that's enough for you to handle now.

I know I didn't send a letter co umn name, but all I could think of was "Space Signals" (ouch) and I know you don't want that!

Sincerely yours
E. Randolph Edwards, Jr.
10 Becton P.O. 3808
North Carolina State Univ.
Raleigh, NC 27607

Well, now we know who doesn't read the indicia at the bottom of the inside front cover, don't we?

Mick Austin was the cover artist. He signed his name outside the area that got trimmed off in printing. That happens sometimes.

In an unfortunate coincidence, we also lost the credits for the first story in issue #3 when a line of type beneath the art on the splash page of "The Heroine" was accidentally stripped off by the engraver or the printer. The writer/artist/colorist was the talented James Brock. Lettering was by L. Lois Buhalis. My apologies to these people for the omission. The moral here is "Letter the credits right onto the original art or run the risk of having them disappear when the engraver or printer mistakenly thinks they are colorist's notes to be stripped away."

You're right about the lettercol title. I didn't want that. (Oh, I'm just kidding. I wanted all the suggestions I could get . . . and the winner—as you can see from looking above—is CHRIS BROWN! Now Chris, all you have to do is drop me a postcard telling me which one of the four books I offered ***(Women and the Comics, I Am Coyote, Comics and Sequential Art,*** *or* ***The Rocketeer Graphic Album)*** *you want for your prize.*

* * * *

Cat,

The three things that impressed me the most about *Alien Encounters* #3 were, in actuality, sections of the same puzzle. They all made a specific point or impression on the reader. My list is as follows:

First off, there was Mick Austin's breathtaking cover. While

I don't remember seeing any of his stuff before, it impressed me enough to ask you to get him to do some more work on the book sometime in the very near future

Secondly, there was Alexander and Michelizzi's fine story, "Relativity." From the opening sequence with the message on the blocks, it was fairly obvious that this little gem would deal with arrogance and pride, as well as prejudice After reading this tale, I was reminded of the saying that pride comes before the fall.

Lastly, believe it or not, was your idea to reward the person who comes up with the best lettercol title with some free Eclipse booty. Thus, since I'd like to own the *Women and the Comics* book, please allow me to submit "Extrinsic Expressions" as my possible claim to fame Whattaya think?

Seeya next issue.

Elvis Orten
Route #4, Box 120
Dawson Springs KY 42408

Wow! This is the first letter from "Uncle Elvis," a.k.a. "Count Elvis," a.k.a. "The Human Trumanite" that was signed with his real full name! Break out the beer, boys, it's time to party!

Yeah, Elvis, you have seen Mick Austin's stuff on the stands before. You just never noticed his name, I'll bet Mick, who lives in England, is the Eagle Award winning cover artist whose previous Eclipse covers have included ***Axel Pressbutton*** *#4 and 6. He also did the cover for* ***Miracleman 3-D Special*** *#1, and his Rembrandt-inspired portrait of Pressbutton is scheduled for the cover of the new 75¢ series,* ***Laser Eraser and Presslitron*** *#4 Other Mick Austin paintings are in the works, too—and will show up on this title within a few months.*

* * * *

My comments on the first two issues of *Alien Encounters:*

"Pretending"—Too hard to follow to be enjoyable. I think I understood it If so, then it's a common tale told many times before

"Open Season"—Much better story and art! Appealing humor It reminds me of "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy." Let's have more!

"Gorgonzo" It started out good, but the ending was a let-down

"Outcast"—A take-off on an old "Twilight Zone" story, but well done, with excellent art and a surprise ending Again, let's have more from this person!

"Pretending" again—I reread the story, just to refresh myself as to why I didn't like it Hey! It's a lot better than I gave it credit for! Pretty scary stuff

"The Monster of Planet Og!"—Very enjoyable and showed great promise up to the end, when the old violence came through and that was the end of that. I wish the storyline had been pursued farther first. . . .

"The Resistance"—Super! I guessed the twist but, if anything, that made it more enjoyable. Good going!

"I Shot the Last Martian"—I'm glad they didn't bother with space suits on Mars They're so annoying.

"Emergency Rations"—Good story and art It wasn't dragged on and on as it might have been, and it wasn't as gory as it might have been. Enjoyable

I'm glad to see you have two pages of letters, by the way.

Jim Lyons
Box 608
Mountain View CA 94042

So, Jim, what did you think of issue #3 . . and of issue #4?

* * * *

Dear sir or madam:

I am very glad to see the high quality and sophistication in the new adult comic books.

I am a female detective working in San Francisco, and have grown up facing the hard realities of sexism and prejudice I have always enjoyed Eclipse comics, but I was very disturbed by the cover of *Alien Encounters* #3 It is certainly fine to depict a beautiful woman as a robot on the cover of a magazine. It is an interesting picture. However, depicting the woman as full-breasted and wearing only a falling off, see-through shirt is no longer just artistic expression. It is damaging to women. What seems like such a minor thing is another step toward hurting women who wish to enter the world as equals, not as sexual objects

Thank you for your time.

Paula Woods
196 Caldecott Lane #211
Oakland CA 94618

Ah, this is a sensitive issue. As a woman myself, I am all too aware of the problem, yet I didn't find Mick Austin's painting of an android in a revealing nightie offensive in the least For one thing, on a very literal level, she wasn't a woman; she was a machine But even discounting that point (because she was built in the image of a woman), there is still the question of whether images of pretty women partially disrobed are detrimental to the political, social, economic, or cultural equality women are working so hard to achieve. Traditional feminists have for the most part taken the position that portrayals of "sexy" young women should be curtailed for fear that they may work on a subconscious level against men taking women seriously as workers, political leaders, and even as people. Unfortunately, this position, especially when expressed in its more extreme forms, has antagonized many men and quite a large number of women, too. This form of feminist sensibility can be all too easily equated with either Puritanism or censorship. Those who oppose Puritanism or censorship may thus come to consider themselves "anti-Feminist" and even go so far as to ridicule the simple, logical Feminist goals of equal pay and increased political representation for women.

There is another form of Feminism, probably best called Humanist Feminism, which also takes social equality as its goal but tries to avoid any attempts to dampen humankind's natural sexual curiosities and desires. A person in this group—and I consider myself one - would (in the name of "equality") run comic book covers depicting half-naked men as often as those depicting half-naked women. The beauty of the human body to other humans is a virtual condition of our continuance as a reproducing life-form. The attraction healthy, well-formed animals have on members of their own species is impossible to avoid, and I see no ***reason*** *to avoid it*

The question should not be "Why do you put pretty, partially disrobed women on your covers?" but instead, "Why ***don't*** *you put handsome, partially disrobed* ***men*** *on your covers?"*

Probably 90% of the readers of this title are heterosexual men. The majority always rules in the world of commercial publishing, but this doesn't mean I intend to ignore the minority preferences. Actually, not one of the cover submissions I have received yet has shown a half-naked guy on it. This may be because no female artist has submitted a cover yet After all, since most men are heterosexual, one can hardly fault them for failing to devote their energies to drawing sexually attractive males. Art, like 99% of human activity, could probably be easily replaced with sexual gratification without very many people complaining Thus, like 99% of human activity, art contains ***within*** *it some of the suppressed, repressed, not-right-now-dear-I'm-busy-earning-a-living sexual impulses of its creators This, I am convinced, is what has led to "The Nude" in art being a term that means "naked ladies on canvas " An artist need not be a woman or a gay man in order to paint good-looking male subjects . . . but I would expect it to help get them thinking of the subject, if you know what I mean*

Since I've yet to receive a spontaneous submission depicting a good-looking semi-unclad man, I may have to commission one. Stay tuned to this wavelength for updates on . . . The Search for the Half-Naked Guy!

—cat yronwode

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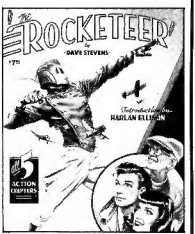

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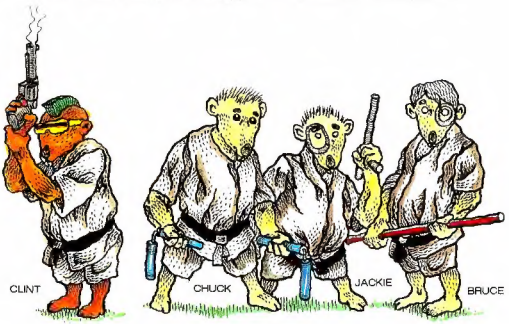

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